

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street, corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

**EIGHTY-SEVENTH (87TH) SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD AT THE BOARD ROOM, 2/F NTA BUILDING, SCOUT REYES STREET CORNER PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
24 JULY 2018, 12:00 NOON**

Present:

Hon. EVELYN F. LAVIÑA	-	Undersecretary, Dept. of Agriculture and Alternate Chairman/Presiding
Hon. ROBERT L. SEARES, M.D.	-	Administrator/Vice-Chairman
Hon. PEDRO J. MENDIOLA, JR.	-	Member, Tob. Traders/Exporters Sector
Hon. RODOLFO F. SALANGA	-	Member, Tob. Manufacturing Sector
Hon. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ	-	Member, Tobacco Farmers Sector
Hon. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL	-	Member, Tobacco Farmers Sector
Hon. NESTOR C. CASELA	-	Member, Academic Community

Others Present:

Atty. MEL JOHN I. VERZOSA	-	Deputy Administrator for Operations
Dr. ROBERTO R. BONOAN	-	Department Manager III, IRD
Mr. ENRIQUE G. DELA CRUZ	-	Consultant, DA-High Value Crop
ATTY. ROBERT A. AMBROS	-	Department Manager III, Regulation Dept. and concurrent Acting Board Secretary
Dr. GIOVANNI B. PALABAY	-	Department Manager III, NTA-La Union BO
Engr. CESARIO G. SAMBRANA	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Pangasinan BO
Engr. HERMOGENES A. GALVEZ	-	Project Manager II, Tobacco Dust Project
Ms. MA. TERESA B. LAUDENCIA	-	Department Manager III, Finance Department
Ms. IMELDA N. RIÑEN	-	Department Manager III, FTSD
Mr. HERMAN C. TORRES	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Isabela BO
Mr. MARIO E. CORPUZ	-	Department Manager III, NTA-I. Norte BO
Dr. CORAZON R. RIAZONDA	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Cagayan BO
Ms. ESMERALDA G. VALERA	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Abra BO
Ms. MINERVA P. MIZAL	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Vigan BO
Ms. ESTRELLA G. DE PERALTA	-	Department Manager III, NTA-Candon BO
Ms. LUZVIMINDA U. PADAYAO	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-I. Norte BO
Mr. FAUSTINO O. TAAL	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-Vigan BO
Ms. EMMA BETH B. FANTASTICO	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-La Union BO
Mr. GILBERT A. TAGUIAM	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-Cagayan BO
Mr. JEOFREY T. BAUTISTA	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-Isabela BO
Mr. ROGER T. MADRIAGA	-	Chief Agriculturist, NTA-Pangasinan BO
Ms. MERLY S. SISON	-	Sr. TPRO, NTA-Candon BO
Ms. MA. MERCEDES M. AYCO	-	TPRO III, FTSD-Cagayan de Oro
Ms. ALONA A. MANGANAAN	-	Executive Assistant IV
Mr. RAMON R. MUNCAL	-	Stenographer II
Ms. KYRA CLAMAÑA	-	Private Secretary II

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

I. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Enrique G. Dela Cruz.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon, with the Vice-Chairman/Administrator Robert L. Seares, M.D., as the Presiding Officer.

At 1:20 in the afternoon, Usec. Evelyn F. Laviña, Alternate Chairman, took over to preside the meeting.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The Acting Board Secretary declared that there is a quorum for the meeting with the presence of majority of the Ex-Officio and Appointive Members of the NTA Governing Board. The Acting Board Secretary noted the presence of the following members of the board, to wit:

1. Usec. EVELYN F. LAVIÑA
2. Adm. ROBERT L. SEARES
3. Dir. PEDRO J. MENDIOLA, JR.
4. Dir. RODOLFO F. SALANGA
5. Dir. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ
6. Dir. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL; AND
7. Dir. NESTOR C. CASELA.

The presence of Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz of the Department of Agriculture – High Value Crops and the Department Managers of the NTA were likewise recognized.

IV. FOR APPROVAL/CONFIRMATION/CONSIDERATION:

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE 87TH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD THIS 24 JULY 2018 AT THE BOARD ROOM, 2/F NTA BUILDING, SCOUT REYES STREET CORNER PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

Vice-Chairman/Administrator Seares presented to the Members of the Board the Agenda for the 87th Special Meeting. Upon motion of Dir. Quintal and duly seconded by Dir. Mendiola, the board unanimously adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 877-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board approves the Agenda for the Eighty-Seventh (87th) Special Meeting of the NTA Governing Board held this 24th day of July 2018 at the Board Room, 2/F NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

B. APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH (113TH) REGULAR MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD ON 07 JUNE 2018 AT THE BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, NTA CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, SCOUT REYES STREET CORNER PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

The Presiding Officer presented the Minutes of the 113th Regular Meeting of the NTA Governing Board held on 07 June 2018 for their consideration and approval.

On motion Dir. Casela, duly seconded by Dir. Martinez, the board adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 878-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board approves the Minutes of the One Hundred and Thirteenth (113th) Regular Meeting of the NTA Governing Board held on 07 June 2018 at the Board Room, 2/F NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

C. APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH (114TH) REGULAR MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD ON 12 JULY 2018 AT THE BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, NTA CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, SCOUT REYES STREET CORNER PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

The Presiding Officer presented the Minutes of the 114th Regular Meeting of the NTA Governing Board held on 12 July 2018 for their consideration and approval.

On motion of Dir. Salanga, duly seconded by Dir. Casela, the board adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 879-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board approves the Minutes of the One Hundred and Fourteenth (114th) Regular Meeting of the NTA Governing Board held on 12 July 2018 at the Board Room, 2/F NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

D. ADOPTION OF REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT OF PERFORMANCE BASED-BONUS (PBB) STARTING WITH CY 2018

On motion of Dir. Salanga, duly seconded by Dir. Mendiola, the board adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 880-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board hereby adopts the Revised Guidelines for the Grant of Performance Based-Bonus (PBB) starting with CY 2018.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

E. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE IFOIGAP-RICE COMPONENT 2018 WET SEASON

Dir. Salanga moved for the approval of the matter. Dir. Quintal seconded the motion. The board then adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 881-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board approves the Amended Guidelines for the IFOIGAP-Rice Component 2018 Wet Season.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

IV. OTHER MATTERS

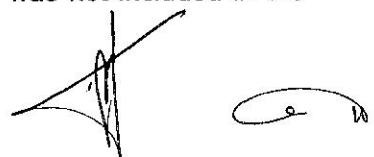
A. IMPROVED SEEDLING PRODUCTION PROJECT

Ms. Padayao presented to the board the proposal for implementation of the Improved Seedling Production Project which will be implemented in the 5 Virginia Tobacco Producing Branch Offices (Ilocos Norte, Vigan, Candon, Abra and la Union) with each BO to establish 4 separate sites to cater 10-hectare area of tobacco farms. Each BO shall produce 240,000 seedlings. She also presented how the seeds are prepared and managed using rice hull as seed bed, as well as, watering schedule, pricking and transplanting schedules.

Dr. Bonoan proposed that the same site may be used for another seedling production to cater those who will plant late October or early November.

Dir. Salanga asked when will the NTA implement the project. Dr. Bonoan responded that it will start last week of August. Dir. Salanga also asked if there is available fund to implement the project. Ms. Laudencia replied that there is available P855,000.00 from the CY 2018 COB for agricultural supplies. Ms. Laudencia also reported that there is another P1.5Million allocated for CY 2019.

Dir. Salanga required the Technical Working Group to study the possible expansion of the project like in Candon if ever NTA will lease the seed production sites. Ms. Padayao said that rentals was not included in the



costings. However, she said that for Ilocos Norte, it has available areas in Tabug and Batac. Dir. Casela commented that if seedbeds will be established at the model farm, Mr. Mario Corpuz will request for the repair of the structures therein. Mr. Corpuz said that he is not sure of the exact amount for the repair but that it will include the repair of the building, poultry house and pig pen. Mr. Corpuz also reported that the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur has already agreed to revive the model farm as a bulk curing site for the use of alternative fuel.

Dir. Quintal asked Ms. Padayao on the cost of carbonized rice hull. Ms. Padayao said that the cost of partially burned CRA is P100.00 per bag which is the prevailing price at Batac. Mr. Corpuz added that some rice millers dispose their rice hull for free but the hauling will increase the cost. Ms. Padayao then suggested to include carbonizer as part of the cost.

Dir. Salanga asked assurance from the technical working group that the project should be implemented this CY 2018-2019 so that for the next tobacco season, NTA will venture into large scale seedling production for CY 2019-2020. He further said that if carbonizer will be included, NTA will need to purchase it through public bidding. Dir. Casela also suggested for the group to establish the timeline for implementation. Dr. Bonoan said he already instructed Ms. Riñen and Ms. Padayao to prepare the operational plan with October 15 as the target for transplanting.

Usec. Laviña suggested to the NTA Management to capacitate the farmers who will participate in the project.

B. MULTI-SECTORAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IFOIGAP-TCGS FOR ILOCOS NORTE

Dir. Casela informed the body that the LGUs (municipal mayors) committed to participate in the TCGS for all tobacco types. He said that the municipal mayors will shoulder the cost of fertilizers and insecticides. PGIN will also provide farm implements in the form of subsidy. NTA will shoulder the cash portion for the traditional type. He said that farmer-cooperators can avail of the grant if they will be able to deliver their tobacco with corresponding PIVs with the participation of TMI and ULPI. He also said that the responsibility in the monitoring of deliveries will be undertaken by the designated farm technicians of NTA, LGUs and BFs. He said that this undertaking with the other sectoral groups – PGIN, LGUs, BFs and farmers will solve the issues in the production of quality tobacco as this will minimize the indiscriminate provision of production inputs which are not in accordance with the NTA recommended package of technology.

Atty. Verzosa asked clarification on the effect of the agreement with PGIN with the NTA TCGS project. Dir. Casela replied that the NTA will be able to save funds allocated for the TCGS project, particularly in Ilocos Norte. Dir. Salanga suggested to include Region 2 in the distribution of funds for production assistance, if available.

Dir. Casela stated that the Ilocos Norte group will appreciate receiving comments/suggestions on the proposal and challenged the NTA management to institutionalize similar arrangement with the LGUs with the end in view of solving the problems on quality tobacco production.

C. REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PRODUCTION INPUTS IN THE FORM OF CASH

Ms. Valera informed the board that she submitted a request to grant cash assistance to farmers in addition to their previously submitted number of farmer cooperators for the TCGS-Rice 2018. Dir. Casela said that it is the management prerogative to present the request to the board for its consideration.

D. AGRIPINOY PROJECT

Usec. Laviña asked on the status of the project if it is still incurring losses. Dir. Salanga replied in the affirmative. He said that the original business plan of the project was for the products to be sold to government offices but it was not foreseen that all government purchases are subject to public bidding. However, Dir. Salanga assured that the NTA is now looking into operating the project on a break-even level.

Usec. Laviña suggested to the NTA to link the AgriPinoy meat products with the DTI which will look for customers. She also said that in hog fattening, the farmers will only earn small income. She then recommended to adopt a system of reproduction where gain can be realized, such as, including in the system the breeding component to make the project sustainable. She said that there is a need to make backward integration and to include those suggestions in the discussions in the meetings of the concerned board committee.

D. INCREASE OF CASH AWARD FOR THE 2017 TOBACCO GROWER OF THE YEAR

On motion of Dir. Salanga, duly seconded by Dir. Quintal, the board adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 882-2018

“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NTA Governing Board approves to amend the Guidelines for the 2017 Tobacco Grower of Year (TGY) Awards, increasing the cash award to Php20,000.00 per winner, with Plaque of Recognition. Likewise, the NTA assisting technicians shall be conferred with a Plaque of Appreciation.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”

E. PROJECT PROPOSAL ON “SPECIAL TOBACCO PRODUCTION PROJECT IN SOUTHERN MINDANAO”

Dir. Salanga informed Usec. Laviña that the above matter was deferred because the proposal was only given yesterday and the members need time to study the proposal. Dir. Quintal added that the NTA has not yet finished in undertaking due diligence procedure to determine the capacity of the company that will buy the tobacco to be produced under the project. Dir. Martinez said that the project will involve the participation of the LGUs, other government offices and the TESDA which will provide

the training component of the project. Dir. Martinez added that Asia Pyrochem Technology Inc. shall serve as the marketing arm of an Indonesian company and the curing barn technology of said company will be adopted for the project.

Usec. Laviña said that he heard Secretary Piñol's statement in expanding tobacco production in Mindanao. Dir. Salanga said that the Secretary made the pronouncement on the assumption that the DBM will approve the budget for the NTA, which unfortunately was not included.

Usec. Laviña suggested for the board to meet with the Secretary on a quarterly basis. She also requested the NTA if she can meet with the group of NAFTA after the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Dir. Mendiola, duly seconded by Dir. Salanga, the meeting was officially adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

PREPARED AND CERTIFIED CORRECT:


ATTY. ROBERT A. AMBROS
Acting Board Secretary

ATTESTED:


Hon. EVELYN F. LAVIÑA
Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture
Alternate Chairman


Hon. ROBERT L. SEARES
Vice-Chairman and Administrator



Hon. PEDRO J. MENDIOLA, JR.
Appointive Director, Tobacco Traders/Exporters Sector


Hon. RODOLFO F. SALANGA
Appointive Director, Tobacco Manufacturing Sector


Hon. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ
Appointive Director, Tobacco Farmers Sector



Hon. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL
Appointive Director, Tobacco Farmers Sector



Hon. NESTOR C. CASELA
Appointive Director, Academic Community

